

Leadership Training Workshop

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1 Introduction

Student Branch (SB) Passau had its 10th anniversary this year (1999). On that occasion they prepared a big party on 25. November and a Leadership Training Workshop (LTW) on 26. November. We received invitation for the party through region 8 SB mailing list. Since all of the officers were really busy with other activities and their studies, we thought that we won't be able to send a representative of our student branch. We promoted the event through our student members mailing list, but didn't receive any response. After the first invitation to the party our past president of SB Maribor, Aleš Časar, met Gerald Anleitner of SB Passau on IRC. Gerald is also the past president of SB Passau and the main organiser for the event. Aleš learned that there will be also a Leadership Training Workshop (LTW) held at that occasion. Gerald also sent him official invitation. Originally they invited student branches from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. Now we were even more eager to join them in celebration and LTW. Luckily my plans have changed unexpectedly, so I was able to go. Great, I said, and started planning for the trip. I was even more excited, because this was my first trip as IEEE SB Maribor representative. Since I'm chair of the SB, I knew all of the problems and plans of our SB and was really looking forward to meet other chairs and R8 student representative. I knew that they are more experienced and that I will be able to learn a lot. I was also looking forward to meet them personally. Since e-mail communication is taking over nowadays, it's really great to meet people with same interests and discuss them personally.

2 Travelling

Because nobody else was joining me, I decided to invite my girlfriend Katja. We both love to travel and meet interesting people. Because we both had a lot of work recently, we spent most of our time this year in Slovenia. She also had name day that weekend, so it was even nicer she could join me. I checked the train ticket, but it turned out to be very expensive (16.925 SIT [Slovenian Tolar] = 86.2 EUR) and we would have to change trains three times. We decided to take our car. I just equipped it with winter tires and everything it needs for safe drive, so we thought it shouldn't be a problem to drive to Passau (375 km). We were right. It was a nice drive through Austria. They have nice roads, so we spent most of our time on the highways. It took us little less than five hours including lunch break. We left Maribor at 11:00 and arrived at Passau around 16:00. We had enough time to find a parking space and Fakultät für Mathematik und Informatik (FMI). FMI is the home of SB Passau and there

was going to be a formal celebration of SB Passau 10th anniversary at 16:30. We got there at 16:30. As we wouldn't come from Slovenia.

3 Formal celebration

I printed pictures and names of Gerald and other board members, so we were able to recognise them. They were all very busy with organisation. Gerald, who welcomed us, introduced R8 Student representative Jorge-Luis Sánchez Ponz. We said a quick hello to each other. Because I wanted to take pictures we decided to sit at the top of a beautiful classroom. Official celebration started a little later, due to technical problems with the equipment (Murphy's Law was in action again). Celebration began with greeting words from SB Passau chair Marcus Junker and SB Past Chair Gerald Anleitner. I was surprised that there weren't more students present. After introduction to the SB Passau we received some words from dean of FMI prof. Christian Lengauer, Ph. D. Because I don't speak German (jet), Martin Ramsch offered himself as a translator. I really liked that! He did his job splendidly. Most of other presentations were held by student members. They were introducing their activities. They presented several projects:

- Workshops (improving knowledge that is not or not much taught at their university),
- Specials (talks about interesting topics),
- Getting to Know a Professor (personal views, details about their research interests or about their curricula vitae),
- Other events.

For a small SB as this they sure have a lot of activities. I got some interesting ideas, too. Student representative of R8 presented SB Passau with special IEEE plaque for their anniversary. Then Hon. Prof. Dr. Ing. Walter E. Proebster, awards officer of German section, explained the beginning of the SB Passau and his contribution to the SB. He was the real initiator of SB Passau, but he doesn't admit that. He is very modest. Near the end of formal celebration prof. dr. Winfried Hahn, SB counsellor, in his speech told us that he doesn't have a lot of work, since students do it all by their selves. When everything looked like it's finished, I presented SB Passau with our gift. I took, developed and framed one of my pictures. Kind of personal, but I thought it is appropriate. They were really surprised and happy. I was happy too. It's great to see that someone likes your work. That concluded the official part.

After some cleaning up, Gerald took us to a near by pub (No. 11), for a sandwich and a glass of beer. There we got a chance to speak and get to know each other. It was a great beginning of the evening. Since we have a lot in common, we were able to start debating about various topics in no time. Usually takes people that have just met at least couple of hours to get into 'serious' discussions, but we took of in just couple of minutes. It was great. And yes, the sandwiches were great also. Even Jorge-Luis said that he likes them. That's a big compliment coming from a Spanish guy. The party was scheduled for the 21:00, so we still had some time to get properly dressed.

4 Party

This was definitely the biggest party I ever saw at the faculty. Actually it was the first party at faculty I ever attended. We don't have parties at faculties in Slovenia. So, I was quite surprised to learn that that's something very normal for German faculties. I think it's great! Problem with parties at FMI was that there were not enough people coming to them, so they stopped organising them some time ago. Gerald and others were even more nervous because of that. It was a first party after some time, so they weren't sure what will be the response. As Very Important Persons (V.I.P.) we didn't have to pay for the entrance and we received some coupons for the free drinks. On the entrance there were checking entrance tickets with UV light. They used special, seen only under UV light, stamp to mark your hand. I really liked that idea!

The party was a big success! More than 600 students came. Great! We were partying in two floors. There were standard rock and pop music on the first floor and techno/rave music in the basement. Something for everybody. That's a recipe for a successful party. And I can tell you it was a big party, with a capital b. You have to keep in mind, that there is less than 20 IEEE student members at the faculty! I was very happy we could come at Thursday and party with them at this great occasion. But it was not only partying, there was also a lot of discussion about IEEE, studies and experiences on different fields. I met Regina and Jens Hannemann at the party, too. Great couple. Jens is R8 Student News Editor and past Student representative for R8. Through discussion on various topics I learned a lot from him. He is full of various information. If we were talking about IEEE, there was not a topic he wouldn't know a lot about. I really enjoyed our discussions. Katja, me, Regina and Jens spent the night at Michael Schön's place. We were warned that it might get a bit cold, but we didn't want to turn the heater on. We were all sorry the next day. We learned our lesson, so next day we listened to the advice and turned heater on. LTW was planned for 12 o'clock, so we were able to get our beauty sleep. We used that privilege and slept until 10 or even longer (I forgot). Then we went to FMI for the LTW.

5 Leadership Training Workshop

LTW was held in one of FMI conference rooms. It is really nice, modern looking room and the faculty lets IEEE SB use it as its own. That's really great. It enables SB to have their own meeting place and a nice room for all the workshops, discussions and other activities. I hope we will get a room for our SB, too. We will work on that. Before the meeting I stopped at the car and prepared some informational literature about Slovenia and our faculty for everybody at LTW.

The meeting started at 12:45. There were representatives of :

- Jorge-Luis Sánchez Ponz as Student Representative for R8,
- Regina and Jens Hannemann from R8 Student News,
- Passau:

- Gerald Anleitner
 - Martin Ramsch
 - Martin Gröger
 - Michael Schön
 - Sven Anders
 - Michael Kellner
 - Gunter Schichl
- Esslingen:
 - Joerg Seitter
 - München:
 - Marc Philipp Horn
 - Maribor:
 - Boštjan Vlaovič
 - Katja Leskovšek

At the beginning we had 'some' problems with Windows 95's Blue screen of death. Usually Jorge-Luis uses Linux and Netscape for his presentations, but this time he decided to use Windows 95 and Power Point. None of us knew why, even Jorge-Luis couldn't find the right reasons. Jorge-Luis was the main spokesman. His slides were really greatly prepared and presented. We received a green map of information. There is almost everything you need as a Chair of SB. Of course there is also a lot of practical knowledge that just can't be written on the paper and can be learned only through discussion. And that is what LTW is all about. I'm sorry that there were not more SB representatives of Germany, Austria and Switzerland present. The discussion would be even more interesting. Nevertheless I learned a lot. Much more than I expected. I realized that student activities are really greatly encouraged by IEEE. It gave me additional motivation for my work as a Chair of SB Maribor. We skipped all the information from the green map and focused on practical aspects of leadership and management of IEEE student branch.

Jorge-Luis' presentation was divided in different topics. First we talked about "Being a leader, being a Boss". He talked about values that a leader should have. There were a lot of interesting points in this part of presentation. I won't be describing them here, but I'm strongly encouraging you to go to the next LTW meeting. Then we talked about public image and presentation of a SB. There is a lot to be done in that aspect at SB Maribor, so I learned a lot at this part to. Isn't that great? We concluded our discussion at 14:15 and took a 15 minute break. We decided to use it for personal conversation with each other. After the break Martin Ramsch presented SB Passau e-mail system. They don't have their own e-mail server, so they had to find a way to organise mail delivery without administrator user account on the

server. You can read more about it in R8 News, since Martin promised Jens to write a short article about it. After Martin's presentation we went to Cafeteria for a lunch. They demonstrated their electronic payment system. They sure know how to use the technology. I really liked that, since I'm a big advocate of new technology and its usage. After lunch (16:07), Jorge-Luis continued with discussion about planning, local IEEE members, winning team, time management, centers of excellence, conferences, ... When Jorge-Luis finished with his presentation I presented a few problems of our own. I knew that we were all tired by now, but I couldn't resist. We discussed problems with Student Books of the winning articles of Student Paper Contests that should be published by the IEEE. We have two second prizes and one first prize. We are waiting for more than six years for the books to be published. Jens and Jorge-Luis explained to me that this problem should be solved any time now. They said that IEEE board already excepted proper measures and that it's just a question of a few weeks/months. I sure hope so. Next we discussed Student Web page contest. Since I couldn't find any information on the Internet, I didn't know if this is a yearly event or just one time thing. Since we were in the middle of rewriting of our SB Web pages I was really eager to hear their comment on that. They said that it is a yearly event and that we will be able to compete under same rules as in previous competition. Great News for our Mirko Zadavec, who is in charge of our web page design, and the SB Maribor. I was also wondering if there is database of winning articles from the Student Paper Contests, because we would like to provide our student members with information about difficulty levels of this papers and writing techniques. I learned that there is no such database, so if you have any winning papers we would be really happy if you could send them to us (ieeesb@um.ieee.si). I also expressed our interest in University partnership program Librarians ¹. We already contacted R8 SAC Gozde Bozdagi on that subject, because we couldn't find any detailed explanation on the Internet. We learned about it through "WHAT'S NEW @ IEEE" mailing list. She replied really quickly, but we didn't like the answer. This test program was planned only for 10 USA universities. Since we couldn't understand why, I asked Jens and Jorge-Luis for possible explanation. They explained that IEEE is working really hard on globalization of its activities and that Gozde and both of them are also working on this subject really hard. They promised that they will look into this particular problem and informe me about any new development that might occur. I was very satisfied with the answer! For the last thing, before formal conclusion of the discussion, I wondered about possibilities for SB to order transactions. I learned, that that is not possible anymore, because a lot of libraries misused this privilege of Student Branches. Now SB can order magazine package designed specifically for Student Branches and choose up to five transactions that you want to receive. We are going to do that as soon as we get ourselves some sponsors. The whole package of 34 magazines and 5 transactions costs \$395. If you are willing to sponsor that, please

¹IEEE ANNOUNCES UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM Librarians, engineering/computer science faculty, and the IEEE staff will team together to provide university-wide online access to IEEE technical literature and increase student membership in the IEEE. The University Partnership Program (UPP) will be tested at 10 universities beginning in 2000. This experimental program coordinates common strategic goals of the participating universities and IEEE: broadening online access, providing tools for life-long learning, and nurturing professional development opportunities.

give us a call (ieeesb@um.ieee.si). Our gratitude will be displayed at our WWW pages and all the students, that will be able to read the magazines will be thankful. Discussion about magazine package concluded great LTW. I would like to thank SB Passau for their great organisation, Jorge-Luis for his presentation, Jens and Jorge-Luis for their very informative answers, Martin Ramsch for his presentation of SB Passau e-mail system and everybody else for their thoughts through the discussion. We finished our meeting after 18 o'clock. It was a great day for us all. But it was not over yet!

6 Official dinner

IEEE showed its support for our work with reimbursement of travel costs for one person from SB and with great dinner in a beautiful restaurant in the city of Passau. We were all tired from the whole day long discussion, but fit enough to get to the restaurant and have some fun. We were really enjoying the dinner and continued with our discussions. Here we had a lot of individual discussions about our private life and, of course, IEEE. I had a great time! In the second part of the dinner Prof. Dr. Winfried Hahn joined us. We learned about his professional career and his first usages of computer. His first computer is now in museum in Munich. It was a big thing, he told us. He was playing with various statistical calculations and applying them to real life problems. It was a pleasure meeting him. We finished with dinner at around midnight. Jens calculated all the expenses and was really happy to inform us, that we didn't cross IEEE budget. Thanks to IEEE for this wonderful evening. After the dinner we went back to our local hosts. Since Slovenia is famous for its great vine, we brought some samples with us. Of course we had to try the vine. There were Regina and Jens Hannemann, Katja Leskovšek, Martin Ramsch and our host Michael Schön present. A new discussion started. We were talking till half past three in the morning. Obviously dinner gave us new energy. It was a great day for us all.

7 Sight seeing

Martin Ramsch offered himself as a tour guide for Jorge-Luis Sánchez Ponz and the two of us. We met next day in the morning. He showed us most of the city of Passau and told us a lot about its history. First we were walking by the river Inn. On the kind of cape Inn joined river Donau, so on our way back we were walking by the river Donau. City of Passau is a city of three rivers. The third one is smaller than the first two. It's called Ilz. It flows into Donau near the fortress where they used to collect taxes for the transport of salt (the white gold). On our right side we saw a beautiful castle and monastery. Because it was a foggy day we decided not to climb all the steep stairs. We went to their cathedral instead. A beautiful old cathedral with biggest organs in the world. When they are played, sound is coming from four different directions (kind of predecessor of a dolby surround system). After the cathedral, we went for a cup of glühwein and said our goodbyes. Jorge-Luis had to catch his train, Katja and me decided to do a bit of shop seeing. After couple of hours we went back to Slovenia. It was a foggy evening, but we arrived safely at around eight o'clock in the evening. Next day we

were sleeping till noon.